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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

CLERK
MARY D. McFARLAND

IN RE: **Policy for the Acceptable**)
 Use of the Public Internet) GENERAL ORDER NO. 99 - 02
 Network for the District of)
 Nebraska)

Overview

The Court provides access to the vast information resources of the Internet to help you do your job faster and smarter. The facilities to provide that access represent a considerable commitment of resources for telecommunications, networking, software, storage, etc. This Internet usage policy is designed to help you understand the Court's expectations for the use of those resources in the particular conditions of the Internet, and to help you use those resources wisely.

While we've set forth explicit requirements for Internet usage below, we'd like to start by describing our Internet usage philosophy. First and foremost, the Internet for the Court is a business tool, provided to you at significant cost. That means we expect you to use your Internet access [primarily] for business-related purposes, i.e., to communicate with others in the legal community, to research relevant topics and obtain useful business information [except as outlined below]. We insist that you conduct yourself honestly and appropriately on the Internet, and respect the copyrights, software licensing rules, property rights, privacy and prerogatives of others, just as you would in any other business dealings. To be absolutely clear on this point, all existing Court policies apply to your conduct on the Internet, especially (but not exclusively) those that deal with intellectual property protection, privacy, misuse of Court resources, sexual harassment, information and data security, and confidentiality.

Definitions

The Data Communications Network (DCN) is a private, nationwide network maintained by the judiciary. The DCN is connected to the Internet at three access points as detailed in IRM Bulletin 97-19. External access to the DCN from the Internet is severely controlled, therefore, it is considered a **secure network**. The Internet is a world-wide communications network with an "open door" policy towards access and use.

General Policy

1. Use of the public Internet network accessed via computer gateways owned, or operated on the behalf of the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska ("the Court") imposes certain responsibilities and obligations on Court employees and officials ("Users") and is subject to Court policies and local, state and federal laws. Acceptable use always is ethical, reflects honesty, and shows restraint in the consumption of shared computing resources. It demonstrates respect for intellectual property, ownership of information, system security mechanisms, and an individual's right

to freedom from harassment and unwarranted annoyance.

2. Use of Internet services provided by the Court may be subject to internal monitoring for security and/or network management reasons. Users of these services are therefore advised of this potential monitoring and agree to this practice. This monitoring may include the logging of which users access what Internet resources and "sites." The Internet is an **unsecured** network. As such, information on the Internet can be read and broadcast or published without the knowledge or consent of the author. Users should further be advised that many external Internet sites also log who accesses their resources, and may make this information available to third parties without the user's knowledge or consent. If the activity of the user is other than official business, the publication of that activity could prove to be an embarrassment for the court and the entire federal judiciary.
3. Due to the unprecedented reach of the Internet, we must take special care to maintain the clarity, consistency and integrity of the Court's image and posture. Anything any one employee writes in the course of acting for the Court on the Internet can be taken as representing the posture of the entire Court.
4. By participating in the use of Internet systems provided by the Court, users agree to be subject to and abide by this policy for their use. Willful violation of the principles and provisions of this policy may result in disciplinary action.

Specific Provisions

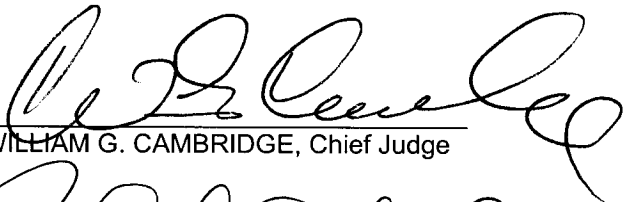
1. Users *will not* utilize the Internet network for illegal, unlawful, or unethical purposes or to support or assist such purposes. Examples of this would be the transmission of violent, threatening, defrauding, obscene, or unlawful materials.
2. Users *will not* utilize Internet network equipment for partisan political purposes or commercial gain.
3. Users *will not* utilize the Internet systems, e-mail or messaging services to harass, intimidate or otherwise annoy another person.
4. Users *will not* utilize the Internet network to disrupt other users, services or equipment. Disruptions include, but are not limited to, distribution of unsolicited advertising, propagation of computer viruses, and sustained high volume network traffic which substantially hinders others in their use of the network.
5. Subject to the approval of the agency head, use of the public Internet system will be treated similarly to "local telephone calls." Staff will keep the use of the Internet system for personal or non-public purposes to a minimum. Such use should not exceed occasional electronic mail with at most small attachments or limited personal research. As much as possible, use of the Internet for non-business reasons should be restricted to other than normal Court business hours. Users should exercise discretion in such use, keeping in mind that such use is monitored and traceable to the court and to the individual user.
6. Users will utilize the Internet network to access only files and data that are their own, that are publicly available, or to which they have authorized access. Employees may not upload or download any software from the Internet without explicit authorization from the appropriate systems manager.
7. Users will take precautions when receiving files via the Internet to protect Court computer systems from computer viruses. Files received from the Internet should be scanned for viruses using court-approved virus scanning software, as defined by Court policy.
8. Users will refrain from monopolizing systems, overloading networks with excessive data, or otherwise

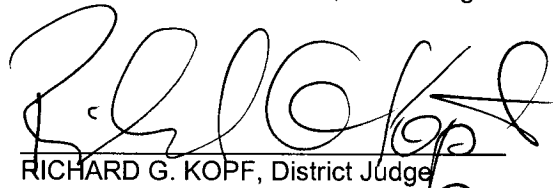
disrupting the network systems for use by others.

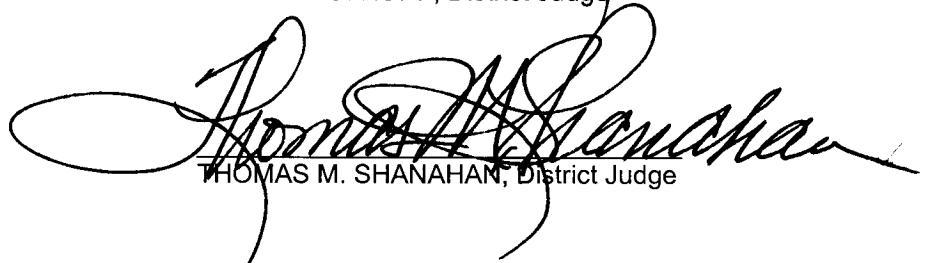
9. Users will ensure that no statement made in any type of communication on the Internet expresses or appears to express a court policy or position. Great care must be taken to ensure that only those materials suitable for public release are transmitted via the Internet.

Dated this 25th day of January, 1999.

BY THE COURT:


WILLIAM G. CAMBRIDGE, Chief Judge


RICHARD G. KOPF, District Judge


THOMAS M. SHANAHAN, District Judge


JOSEPH F. BATAILLON, District Judge